

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Present Application:

Applicant : James B. Dale
Title : GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL VACCINES
Docket No. : 481112.410C1
Date : **February 17, 2004**

Prior Application:

Examiner : DEVI, Sarvamangala J. N.
Art Unit : 1645
Application No. : 09/151,409

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS

Commissioner:

The above-identified patent application is a continuation of allowed U.S. Patent Application No. 09/151,409, filed September 10, 1998, to which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120. In addition, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/151,409 claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application No. 60/058,635, filed September 12, 1997, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Consequently, a "Cross-Reference to Related Application" paragraph has been added to include the parent and provisional applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant specification has been amended to include the amendments made to the specification of the parent application, USAN 09/151,409.

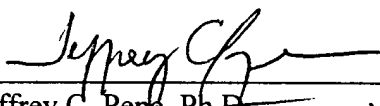
In addition, the abstract has been rewritten to more clearly describe the instantly claimed invention.

With regard to the claims, original claims 1-11 have been hereby replaced with new claims 1-27. Applicant submits that currently pending claims 1-27 are essentially based on original claims 1-4. No new matter has been added by any of the above-noted amendments. Therefore, claims 1 to 27 are currently pending.

In view of the state of the art at the time of filing of the priority application and as disclosed in the specification and recited in claims 1-27, the present application complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The present application teaches a person of ordinary skill in the art hybrid fusion polypeptides comprising a multivalent portion having at least two immunogenic amino-terminal polypeptides of Group A streptococcal M protein and a carboxy-terminal reiterated immunogenic polypeptide that is carboxy-terminal to the multivalent portion and is a reiteration of a polypeptide from the amino-terminal region of the multivalent portion, and compositions thereof. In this respect, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,
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